

FACT SHEET

EMS Series, No 3

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ISO 14000 Series

Overview

The ISO 14000 series, is a set of *voluntary* standards on environmental management that address [environmental management systems](#), audits, labeling, life cycle assessments, and performance evaluations. These standards are developed by the International Organization for Standardization, simply known as ISO, which is a non-governmental, international group established to promote the development and implementation of worldwide standardization. In addition to the ISO 14000 series, the organization develops voluntary international standards for all types of related activities in different countries. The organization, whose main office is located in Geneva, Switzerland, is comprised of members representing over one hundred countries that are

ISO representative for the United States is the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

responsible for providing information on international standardization opportunities and representing their countries interest.

In order for ISO to develop standards, an industry or business sector must express a need to their ISO country member, who makes a new standard proposal to the entire organization. If ISO agrees that a new standard should be developed, it is assigned to a technical committee comprised of experts in the area or field of the proposed standard. These experts are national delegations that represent the views of a full national consensus on the issues involved. Once a technical committee is assigned, the proposed standard goes through three basic phases:

Technical Committee for the ISO 14000 series is TC 207.

- Consensus;
- Draft Standard; and
- Approval.

The ISO 14000 Family

The technical committee for the ISO 14000 series was formed in 1993 to develop standards regarding environmental management that are practical, useful, and usable. The committee consists of working groups in seven areas, with each group managing distinct ISO 14000 standards. However, the ISO 14000 family can be classified into two categories: Environmental Management Systems (ISO 14001 and ISO 14004) and Environmental Management Tools (all other ISO 14000 standards). These tools assist in obtaining environmental goals and policies established during the implementation of an environmental management system (EMS).

Environmental Management Systems

ISO 14001 provides organizations with an approach to developing and implementing an environmental management system that identifies and manages all environmental impacts of their activities and services, while ISO 14004 aids in establishing an EMS as outlined by ISO 14001. Organizations, subscribing to ISO 14001, must commit to establishing and maintaining a management system that incorporates the following elements:

- ☞ Policy Statement: Management is required to develop and implement environmental policies, which commits an organization to pollution prevention, regulatory compliance, and continual improvement.
- ☞ Planning: Organizations must identify impacts to the environment from operations, track regulatory requirements, then establish a plan to reduce these impacts and ensure regulatory compliance.
- ☞ Implementation & Operation: Organizations should identify and set responsibilities for personnel, establish training, incorporate communication, and establish instruction for emergency response.
- ☞ Checking & Corrective Action: Organizations are required to monitor and evaluate established policies to identify and correct environmental deficiencies.



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☞ **Management Review:** Organizations must review and assess their EMS to ensure it is operating effectively, and make adjustments to the system improving overall environmental performance.

Environmental Management Tools

The remainder of the ISO 14000 standards supplements and supports ISO 14001 and ISO 14004, providing guidance on:

- ▶ Environmental Auditing
ISO 14010; 14011; and 14012.
- ▶ Environmental Labels and Declarations
ISO 14020; 14021; and 14024.
- ▶ Environmental Performance Evaluation
ISO 14031.
- ▶ Life Cycle Assessment
ISO 14040; 14041; 14042; and 14043.
- ▶ Environmental Terms and Definitions
ISO 14050.

Certification/Registration

Of the ISO 14000 Series, the only standard for which an organization can be registered, or certified, is ISO 14001. Once an organization has fully implemented ISO 14001, they can either self-declare or register their compliance. To self-declare compliance an organization's EMS

undergoes an internal review or audit. In order to register compliance with ISO 14001, an organization's EMS must undergo an external audit by an accredited third-party registrar.

AF Status

Presently the Air Force is evaluating a formal environmental management system as outlined by ISO 14001 and is participating in several pilot studies.

Additional Information

Contact Mr. Scott Newquist, Environmental Quality Directorate, Headquarters Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence, DSN 240-3517; or PRO-ACT at DSN 240-4240.

Web Sites

- ☞ *Environmental Management Systems/ISO 14000*, DENIX, <https://www.denix.osd.mil/denix/Public/Library/EMS/ems.html>.
- ☞ *ISO Online*, International Organization for Standardization, <http://www.iso.ch/iso/en/ISOOnline.openerpage>.
- ☞ *ANSI Online*, American National Standards Institute, <http://web.ansi.org/>.

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